



SRC NewsFlash

A Summary of News, Messages, and
Facts from the Senate Republican Caucus

SRC Calendar:

- Monday, January 16**
- **10 a.m.** Senate Ag & Rural ED Committee hearing on SB 6148 (Sen. Mulliken) providing sales tax exemption for fuels used by farmers. (SHR 3).
 - **3:30 p.m.** Senate K-12 Comm hearing SB 6311 (Sen. Carrell) providing teacher bonuses in high-demand subject areas. (SHR 1).
 - **Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day**
- Tuesday, January 17**
- **10 a.m.** Senate Gov't Ops & Elections Committee hearings on Growth Mgmt. Act bills. (SHR 2).
 - **10 a.m.** Senate Labor & Commerce hearing on SB 6537, out of state wineries selling direct to WA consumers (SHR 4).
 - **10 a.m.** House State Gov't Ops committee hearing on gay rights, HB 2661 (HHR D).
 - **3:30 p.m.** Jud. Comm. Hearing SB 6258 (Sen. Delvin), school weapons possession (SRH 1).
- Wednesday, January 18**
- **8 a.m.** Senate Education Committee hearing on SB 6466, governor's proposal to create new cabinet level early learning department (SRH 1).
 - **8 a.m.** Natural Resources Committee hearing on SJM 8027 (Sen. Morton) requesting that Congress allow management of certain fish predators (SHR 2).
 - **10 a.m.** Senate session & caucus.
 - **Noon** March for Life, Capitol Grounds
 - **1:30 p.m.** Ways and Means Committee work session addressing state's WorkFirst and TANF programs (SHR 4).
- Thursday, January 19**
- **8 a.m.** Senate Labor, Commerce, R&D Committee hearing on SB 6356, requiring large employers to provide health care insurance coverage to employees ("pay or play") (SHR 4).
 - **8 a.m.** Senate Hum. Srvs. Committee hearings on sex predator bills including SB 6144 (Sen. Stevens), SB 6308 and SB 6315 (both Sen. Carrell) (SHR 1).
 - **10 a.m.** Int'l Trade Comm hearing on SB 6293 (Sen. Pflug) providing employment tax credits for hiring students in math and science programs (SHR 3).
 - **3:30 p.m.** Senate Health & Long Term Care Committee hearing on SB 6278, licensing requirements for specialty hospitals (Sen. Deccio) (SHR 4).
- Friday, January 20**
- **10 a.m.** Senate session and caucus

Republican 'Commitment to Washington'

On Jan. 5, Senate and House Republicans unveiled an 11-point "Commitment to Washington" legislative agenda for the 2006 session. The 11 priorities are:

- Put government on a budget by restoring voter-approved tax and spending limits.
- Protect our kids from sex offenders by passing "Jessica's Law Plus."
- Give health care back to patients by allowing affordable, tailored choices that work best for them and their families.
- Get government out of the way of job growth by removing the regulatory burden on small business, repealing the death tax, and reforming unemployment insurance.
- Aim for safer neighborhoods through enhanced penalties for auto theft, identity theft and methamphetamine production.
- Welcome families to our state parks by eliminating the day use fee.
- Help every student achieve WASL standards and graduate on time by offering remedial classes, tutors and expanded summer school programs.
- Help needy families by reducing energy costs.
- Allow citizens and their elected representatives – not the courts – to decide the definition of marriage.
- Protect property rights and prevent government from taking property without compensation.
- Strengthen the family farm by providing tax relief, allowing families to use their land as intended, and ensuring access to water.

In the News

On House and Senate approval of emergency low-income home heating assistance: Republicans, eclipsed by the Democratic majorities in both the House and Senate, have repeatedly pointed out that they called for a similar change back in September. They wanted the governor to convene a one-day session then, so they could cap energy taxes for now.

"She (Gregoire) didn't do that," **Sen. Mike Hewitt, R-Walla Walla**, said Tuesday night. "So we lost three months of heating for low-income citizens." (*Spokane Spokesman-Review*, 1-12-06)

Democrats on "pay or play," requiring large employers to provide health care coverage to employees: State Rep. Eileen Cody, D-Seattle, is this year's sponsor. "Cody said she intends to seek a 5,000-employee threshold this year then come back later to lower the threshold." (*Olympian*, 1-06-06)

